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## PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

[Abstract from the Monthly proceedings.]

10 JAN. 1879.—Dr. G. H. Horn exhibited a *Callimorpha* and a *Heliconia* from Costa Rica, which resembled each other so closely in form and color, "that either might have been placed among a number of specimens of the other, and, without a careful glance, would not be thought distinct." As the group to which the *Heliconia* belongs is rarely or never attacked by birds, the mimicry belongs to the "protective" class. Dr. Horn gave reasons for thinking the idea of protective resemblance had been pushed too far.—p. 2-3.

14 FEB. 1879.—Type specimens of *Catocala editha* and *C. walshii* were presented to the *American Entomological Society* by the author, W. H. Edwards. . . . A collection of 63 genera, 142 species of *rhopalocera* and 17 genera, 27 species of *heterocera*, collected by the late W. M. Gabb, in Costa Rica, was exhibited.—p. 3-4.

14 MARCH 1879.—Mr. E. T. Cresson described *Parnopes edwardsii* [see *Proceedings* for 9 May 1879, p. 10], a new species of *chrysididae*, from California; the genus had not hitherto been found represented in North America. Mr. C. A. Blake described *Mutilla gabbii* n. sp., from Costa Rica. Mr. E. T. Cresson announced the completion of his Catalog of North American *apidae*, enumerating 45 genera and 724 species, of which 113 species, principally from Mexico and the West Indies, are unknown to him; 601 species are

represented in the collection of the *American Entomological Society*, and 10 are in the collections of Belfrage and Gundlach. Mr. C. A. Blake stated that *Catocala editha* is the same as *C. amatrinx*; he stated also that in the summer of 1878 a *Papilio cresphontes* was captured near Philadelphia, where it very rarely occurs. Mr. E. T. Cresson announced the death of F. Smith, of the *British Museum*.—p. 4-6.

11 APRIL 1879.—Mr. E. T. Cresson described *Euparagia scutellaris*, a n. g. and sp. of *vespidae*, from Nevada, belonging probably to the tribe *masarinae*; and read descriptions of *Trigonalys mexicanus*, *T. laeviceps* and *T. nevadensis*, three new species, the former two from Mexico, and the last from Nevada. Dr. G. H. Horn reviewed the family *mycteridae*, advocating its union with *melandryidae* on the one hand and with *pythidae* on the other, and insisting on the greater importance of the sexual characters as the true means of specific distinction in the genera *Myceterus* and *Lacconotus*.—p. 6-8.

9 MAY 1879.—Mr. C. A. Blake described *Pamphila dukolum* n. sp., from Costa Rica; Mr. E. T. Cresson described *Oryssus occidentalis* and *Cleptes americana*, from Colorado and Nevada, *Oryssus mexicanus* from Mexico, and *Cleptes purpurata* from Vancouver's Island, four new species. Rev. H. C. McCook exhibited under the microscope thin sections of the mandibles of *Pogonomyrmex barbatus*, the agricultural ant of Texas, showing the loss of substance by wear on the sharp edges of the teeth. The same fact was also illustrated in the mandibles of *Pasinachus* and of other coleoptera, as well as in other members of the body exposed to wear. [See *Psyche advertiser*, May-June 1879, p. 9.] (*To be continued.*)

## REVIEW.

INSECT LIVES, or Born in prison, by Mrs. Julia P. Ballard, [see *Rec.*, no. 1725] is a very attractively written account of the author's experiences in raising a few butterflies and moths, and is well designed to interest children, or indeed older persons, in the subject, though in some particulars beyond the comprehension of children. It has the merit of accuracy and clearness, and is full of a delightful suggestiveness of the treasures in store for the young explorer who is led by it to try her own experiments. B: P. M.